

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAM-01 AID-05 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6392

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN NY

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: PRES ATTEMPTS TO FORM NATIONAL UNITY GOVT

1. EVENING OF OCT 5TH PRES KORUTURK ANNOUNCED THAT AS RESULT OF FAILURE OF EFFORTS BY PRIMIN ECEVIT AND PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADER, SULEYMAN DEMIREL, TO FORM A NEW GOVT IN WAKE OF ECEVIT'S RESIGNATION, HE WILL NOW EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A "NATIONAL UNITY GOVT." FOR THIS PURPOSE THE PRES HAS CALLED A MEETING FOR 0930 TUESDAY (OCT 8) TO BE ATTENDED BY ALL PARTY LEADERS. IN ANNOUNCING THE MEETING PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN STATED THAT BECAUSE OF IMPORT "INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL" PROBLEMS, SUCH A GOVT WOULD BE "BEST POSSIBILITY" AT THIS TIME.

2. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR FROM FOREGOING THAT, BEFORE TURNING BACK TO ECEVIT (WHO IS BY THE WAY STILL ON VACATION OUT OF THE CITY) AND ASKING HIM EITHER TO MAKE A RENEWED ATTEMPT TO FORM A REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP)-DEMOCRATIC
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PARTY (DP) COALITION OR TO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A MINORITY

GOVT MADE UP OF THE RPP ALONE, PRES KORUTURK IS NOW SEEKING TO FORM A RELATIVELY NONPARTISAN GOVT UNDER A RELATIVELY NONPARTISAN FIGURE AS DISCUSSED IN EMBTEL 7938.

3. GIVEN THE SERIOUS PARTY ANTAGONISMS HERE AND CONCERN OVER HAVING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR (A) INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, (WHICH ALL PARTIES FORESEE IN MONTHS AHEAD) AND FOR (B) FUTURE CYPRUS DECISIONS (WHICH ARE LIKELY IN THE FUTURE TO BE MORE COMPROMISING AND MORE CONTROVERSIAL DOMESTICALLY THAN IN THE PAST) THIS IS GOING TO BE A DIFFICULT TASK INDEED. IT ALSO MEANS THAT ECEVIT'S PREDICTION MADE TO ME A LITTLE OVER A WEEK AGO THAT BY TOMORROW (MONDAY OCT 7) IT WOULD BE CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT HE IS TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE, AT LEAST FOR THE WEEKS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD, IS NOW SUBJECT TO SOME READJUSTMENT.

4. IT MAY OF COURSE BECOME IMMEDIATELY CLEAR IN TUESDAY MEETING THAT THE COALITION PRES KORUTURK IS NOW SEEKING IS NOT FEASIBLE AT THIS POINT, IN WHICH CASE WE WILL THEN KNOW THAT IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT ECEVIT WILL CONTINUE IN POWER, AT LEAST IN CARETAKER CAPACITY, FOR SOME TIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, ANOTHER POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT COULD BE THE DESIGNATION BY THE PRES, IN NEXT DAY OR SO, OF A NEW NOMINEE TO SEEK TO FORM THE "NATIONAL UNITY GOVT" THE PRES IS SEEKING. IN THAT EVENT, IT WOULD LIKELY BE SEVERAL MORE DAYS BEFORE IT BECOMES KNOWN WHAT THE PROSPECTS ARE FOR THE SUCCESS OF SUCH A EFFORT. AT THE END OF THAT TIME, THE PRES WOULD THEN STILL HAVE THE CHOICE OF EITHER TURNING BACK TO ECEVIT, TO ATTEMPT A RPP-DP OR A MINORITY GOVT, OR OF CALLING ON ANOTHER POLITICAL FIGURE TO MAKE A SECOND ATTEMPT TO FORM A NATIONAL UNITY GOVT. IN ANY EVENT, THE SITUATION OUGHT TO BE SOMEWHAT CLEARER BY TUESDAY EVENING.
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